

Message Text

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51

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7965

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1729

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: YOUTH PARA DATA

REF: A. LISBON 1513; B. STATE 070302

1. EMBASSY HERewith SUBMITS NARRATIVE EXPLANATIONS
REQUESTED IN REF B. WEIGHTED FIGURES SUPPLIED REF A.

2. YOUTH CATEGORIES- RATIONALE - EMBASSY BELIEVES US
YOUTH EFFORT SHOULD BE DIRECTED PRINCIPALLY AT:

A) YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS - GOP IN RECENT YEARS HAS
TAPPED SIGNIFICANT NUMBER YOUNG COMERS AS CANDIDATES
FOR DEPUTIES IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, A JOB WHICH HAS OFTEN
BEEN STEPPING STONE TO POSITIONS OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY
IN GOVERNMENT. THOUGH PORTUGAL'S ONLY LEGAL POLITICAL
MOVEMENT DOES NOT HAVE YOUTH WING AS SUCH, GOP TAKES
ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUTH AFFAIRS AND YOUNG, DYNAMIC
DIRECTORS OF GOVERNMENT'S SECRETARIAT FOR YOUTH SEEM
DESTINED FOR BRIGHT FUTURES.

B) BUREAUCRATS - GOP HAS CREATED OR REVITALIZED PLANNING
BOARDS IN SEVERAL MINISTRIES (DEALING ESPECIALLY WITH
EDUCATIONAL REFORM AND ECONOMIC PLANNING) WHICH ARE
STAFFED IN LARGE PART BY YOUNG TECHNOCRATS.

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C) BUSINESSMEN - MOST PORTUGUESE BUSINESS FIRMS AND BANKS -- INCLUDING MANY OF THE LARGEST-- ARE FAMILY OPERATIONS. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING GRADUATION FROM UNIVERSITY MEMBERS OF THESE FAMILIES ARE OFTEN GIVEN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS. ALSO, GIVEN RELATIVE SCARCITY OF WELL- TRAINED ECONOMISTS IN PORTUGAL, THOSE HIGHLY- QUALIFIED FEW OFTEN FILL HIGH- LEVEL JOBS AT YOUNGER AGE.

D) EDUCATORS - SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF BRIGHTEST UNIVERSITY GRADUATES REMAIN ON CAMPUS AS JUNIOR FACULTY MEMBERS WHILE AT SAME TIME TAKING MORE REMUNERATIVE PART- TIME EMPLOYMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR. SOME OF THESE SUBSEQUENTLY ENTER GOVERNMENT AT ELEVATED LEVEL. MANY OF CAETANO' S CABINET AND SUB- CABINET OFFICIALS ARE PRODUCTS OF THIS PROCESS.

3. YOUTH CATEGORIES - SHORT- TERM YOUTH IMPACT. WE DOUBT ANY YOUTH GROUP OR INSTITUTION WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON US INTERESTS IN AS BRIEF A PERIOD AS NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS.

4. OBJECTIVES - RATIONALE . PORTUGAL IS A CONSERVATIVE AND TRADITION- BOUND COUNTRY. THE ROAD TO POWER IS PROBABLY MORE CLEARLY DEFINED THAN IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS OF US YOUTH EFFORT SHOULD BE TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL LEADERS AND DEVELOP PROFITABLE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THUS SECURING MEASURE OF ACCESS TO THEM IN FUTURE. ADDITIONALLY, GIVEN CLOSED NATURE OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY AND PRESS CENSORSHIP, DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH CONTACTS IS NECESSARY TO GIVE EMBASSY COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS.

5. RESOURCES - WE BELIEVE OUR MOST EFFECTIVE RESOURCE IS PERSONAL CONTACT. WE OFFER NO COMMENT ON PRIVATE RESOURCES, AND HAVE NO PEACE CORPS PROGRAM.

6. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF " YOUTH" - CONTINUING CHARACTER- ISTIC IN PORTUGUESE SOCIETY IS THE PREDOMINANCE OF OLDER MEN IN CONTROLLING OR INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS. PROMINENT FIGURES TEND TO BE MEN IN THEIR LATE 50 S OR OLDER , WHO HAVE SERVED LONG APPRENTICESHIPS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE

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YOUNGER MEN IN IMPORTANT SECONDARY OR TERTIARY LEVEL POSITIONS, THE MANNER IN WHICH PORTUGUESE SOCIETY OPERATES FORCES THE EMBASSY TO CONCENTRATE A LARGE PORTION OF ITS RESOURCES ON INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NEITHER CHRONOLOGICALLY NOR SPIRITUALLY IN THE " YOUTH" CATEGORY.

POST

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